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## Candidate Donovan

MARY McGRORY

James B. Donovan, the lawyer who is running for the Senate against Republican incumbent Jacob K. Javits, says, "I'm not the typical candidate."

He is absolutely right.

He is the only contender on a crowded scene who is engaged in negotiations with the head of a hostile foreign power. He has been spending a considerable amount of time in Cuba bargaining with Fidel Castro for the release of prisoners taken in the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of April 1960. He gained fame as a spy-swapper, having arranged the Powers-Abel exchange.

He is surely the only candidate with a staff of one, a public relations man, and a schedule that changes hourly. He works out of one room given to him by the Democratic State Committee in its Hotel Commodore headquarters. He rides around alone in a Volkswagen bus driven by David Hodge, a district leader, who has faithfully promised to equip himself with a map before they set out again.

Donovan, a stocky, cocky, white-haired man, is the one candidate in the country who can remember distinctly every rally he has been to. He began his campaign exactly five days ago.

Last week he jounced through Brooklyn for over an hour while Dave kept assuring him that the Kingsport Highway Democratic Club was just around every corner.

"We really ought to get detailed directions," he said in one of his few somber moments. "We always get to these affairs when they are over."

Donovan is the only candidate whom the Kennedys have tried to push off the Democratic ticket.

The Kennedy intervention began at the eleventh hour of the Democratic state convention in Syracuse, a chaotic seance that also produced the colorless standard-bearer, Robert M. Morgenthau, for Governor. The Attorney General, his brother's keeper in domestic political matters, called New

York chieftains and told them Donovan would not do on the ticket.

The leaders told Bobby it was too late.

During the week that followed, Donovan could have withdrawn.

But after Sept. 25, not even death can remove a candidate's name from the New York ballot.

When Donovan heard that Bobby's unhappiness with his candidacy was about to be aired anew over nationwide TV, he said: "If the President or the Attorney General had asked me to withdraw, I would have done it. I am not that obsessed with the toga. But now it's illegal."

Bobby's latest suggestion to the harried leaders came Tuesday. He called and proposed that Donovan announce that, due to his commitment to the Cuban negotiations, he would not campaign actively and endorse a write-in vote for Assistant Secretary of Labor James Reynolds.

Once again, the Democratic leaders told Bobby it was too late.

Some New York Democrats feel that the Kennedys allowed Donovan's candidacy to go forward at a time when there was hope that he would enter the arena as the triumphant liberator of the Cuban prisoners. The negotiations, begun in June, are still going on, and Donovan expects momentarily to be summoned back to Havana by Fidel Castro. The Kennedys are smarting under criticism for giving a political context to those most delicate and painful negotiations. Cuba is the most explosive issue faced by Democrats.

But Donovan, a fighter in his youth who enjoys being compared with Wendell Willkie, is at this moment determined to carry on a campaign which, in its casual and hapless nature, appears to carry out the spirit if not the letter of Bobby's wishes.

As he makes his more or less appointed rounds, Donovan insists he is having a wonderful time. He is the only Democrat in New York who is saying anything of the kind these days.